Review of the Electricity Act, 2003

2231. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed/are reviewing the Electricity Act, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the present status and the proposed period of completion of the process;

(c) whether there is any delay in completing the review;

(d) if so, whether the competent authority had represented to retain the Kerala State Electricity Board as a public sector utility;

(e) if so, whether above request would be acceded to; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) After carrying out a review of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Act has been recently amended by enactment of the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007 which has come into force from 15th June, 2007.

(d) to (f) After coming into force of the Electricity Act, 2003, initially the Government of Kerala had requested the Central Government for agreeing to continuation of the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) as the State Transmission Utility (STU) and licensee under section 172(a) of the Act and the same was agreed to for specific periods. Thereafter, through the State Government requested for continuance of the State Electricity Boards as such, subsequently, while informing of the steps being taken by it to reorganize the KSEB, the State Government has been seeking more time for continuation of KSEB as the STU and licensee which has been agreed to by the Central Government for specific periods under the provisions of section 172(a) of the Act.

Power generation from Tehri dam

2232. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is not enough water in the Tehri dam reservoir to generate power;

(b) if so, the reasons for shortage of water in the reservoir; and

(c) the steps proposed to generate full capacity power from the Tehri dam?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd. (THDC) has informed that there is no shortage of water in the Tehri Reservoir to generate power.

The Tehri Dam Project, being a high rock fill dam with large storage reservoir and as per design and technical requirements, it is to be gradually filled in specified controlled manner during its initial filling. The full reservoir filling of Tehri Project is expected to be attained in a period of three years. The first stage filling upto EL-785.25m (45 m above dead storage level of EL-740.0 m) was accomplished

as per the schedule in the monsoon of year 2006 and 891 MU energy generated in 2006-07. The reservoir level is expected to be raised upto EL-815m during the monsoon of year 2007, while the full reservoir level (EL-830 m) is expected to be achieved in the monsoon of year 2008. Once the full reservoir level is achieved, the Tehri Power Station shall afford the full design energy as well as other water requirements.

Constitution of NPPMB

2233. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 859, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th August, 2007 and state:

(a) what would be the role of the National Power Project Management Board (NPPMB) proposed to be set up by Government;

(b) whether power generation targets for 2007-08 are on schedule;

(c) in what way this Board would revive delayed projects;

(d) whether this Board would provide financial help to power projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The National Power Project Management Board (NPPMB) is being set up for monitoring the progress of projects and to ensure timely commissioning of the planned capacity addition and associated transmission projects.

(b) Yes, Sir. The total energy generation in the country during the current year (April'06 - July'07) was 234.23 billion units against the target of 230.13 billion units.

(c) to (e) The modalities for setting up the National Power Project Management Board (NPPMB) are being worked out so as to make the Board functional at the earliest. The provision of financial help to power projects would not fall within the purview of this Board.

Funds for Uttarakhand under RGGVY

†2234. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Uttarakhand, so far, under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), the percentage of ST villages, sub-villages, hemlets and settlements electrified in the State;

(b) by when the target of electrifying each village in the State would be achieved and the details of assistance to be provided to the State Government to achieve this target; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.